Frederick County Office of Sustainability & Environmental Resources

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

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News Release

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COUNTY GOES MOBILE TO SAVE RESIDENTS ENERGY

A new mobile application empowers residents to switch to energy-efficient lighting, cut utility bills, and take advantage of local energy-saving incentives.

FREDERICK, MD — As part of Frederick County's Green Homes Challenge, the Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources (OSER) has launched an initiative to help residents switch to energy efficient lighting and reduce household electric bills. Light Bulb Finder, a free mobile app, makes it easy to find energy-saving light bulbs with the right light quality, style and performance. It informs residents about the financial and environmental benefits of energy-efficient lighting as well as local savings, incentives and rebates. By using the app to switch to energy-saving light bulbs, the average household can save \$120 annually.

Light Bulb Finder is available as a free download on iPhone, iPad, iPod touch and Android smartphones. To use it, residents can visit the app store on a mobile device, search for "Light Bulb Finder," and sign in with their Frederick County zip code. Based on a few simple inputs about home fixtures and current incandescent bulb types, the app instantly calculates a home's savings potential and recommends Compact Fluorescent (CFL) and LED equivalents. Each recommendation includes a bulb image, price, financial payback, and environmental impact. Users can also buy recommended energy-saving light bulbs directly through the app or refer to the customized shopping list on their smartphones to purchase bulbs at local stores. A tour of the app and a demonstration video are available at www.lightbulbfinder.net.



Light Bulb Finder links users to the Frederick County Green Homes Challenge and light bulb rebates

"We're excited to be launching this innovative tool just in time for Earth Day, which is on April 22, 2011," said OSER manager Hilari Varnadore. "Energy efficient lighting is one simple way residents can not only cut their electric bills, but also protect our natural resources and help sustain and secure our nation's energy supply."

Eco Hatchery, the sustainability consulting and technology firm that created Light Bulb Finder will track and report the county's aggregate energy savings and greenhouse gas emissions reductions throughout the program. This will be one of several ways the county will be measuring energy savings in the community and reporting results to federal program funders such as the Department of Energy.

For those interested in learning about other effective ways to lower energy use and utility bills, visit www.SustainableFrederickCounty.org. Households can join the Green Homes Challenge & Certification Program and take advantage of resources like the *Power Saver Handbook*, available to download for free on our web site.

The Office of Sustainability & Environmental Resources advances practical solutions for protecting the environment, conserving energy and living sustainably in Frederick County, Maryland. For more information on the Light Bulb Finder or other energy saving strategies, contact Lisa Orr, Sustainability Program Coordinator, at 301-600-6864 or lore@frederickcountymd.gov.

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